TRIBAL ART SOCIETY

Sunday
June 1st
2025

ONLINE CATALOGUE LXXXXVIII

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JUNE ISSUE

WHO WE ARE

The Tribal Art Society features an online catalogue every month listing quality works of Tribal art that have been thoroughly vetted by our select members, who are the in-house experts.

By bringing together a group of trusted dealers specializing in Tribal art, our platform offers a unique collection of works of art that collectors will not find anywhere else online. To ensure the highest standards, gallery membership is by invitation only and determined by a selection committee.

/TribalArtSociety

Cover Image: detail of a Kowako katsina. Presented by Renaud Vanuxem on p. 77

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JUNE ARTWORKS

Pieces are published and changed each month. The objects are presented with a full description and corresponding dealer's contact information. Unlike auction sites or other platforms, we empower collectors to interact directly with the member dealers for enquiries and purchases by clicking on the e-mail adress.

In order to guarantee the quality of pieces available in the catalogues, objects are systematically validated by all our select mebers, who are the in-house experts. Collectors are therefore encouraged to decide and buy with complete confidence. In addition to this, the Tribal Art Society proposes a seven-day full money back return policy should the buyer not feel totally satisfied with a purchase.

Feel free to ask the price if the artwork is listed with a price on request.

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01

PUNUK/THULE COMB

Nuyiurutet' Comb From a collection of 70 pieces of Inuit artefacts
Ancient Punuk or Thule Eskimo
Bering Sea
800 - 1200 A.D.
Carved with an amuletic masked and tattooed male figure probably representing a Shaman a loop to the back of the head for attachment to a belt
The teeth mostly missing smooth silky creamy patina. Walrus Ivory
6 cm (h.) x 2,5 cm (w.) x 1,3 cm (d.)
Provenance:
Private Russian collection
Finch and Co, catalogue no. 28, item no. 11
Oliver Hoare
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Finch & Co
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Larger combs were used to prepare or 'hackle' fibres of sinew, or to comb the fur on clothing. These smaller ones were used as personal hair combs and they epitomise the Eskimos skill in infusing items of everyday use with artistic elegance. Eskimo artists were indifferent to verticality as, lacking in literacy, they visualised forms without a knowledge of Western perspective, and possessed a simultaneous perception of multiple meanings within one form.

This comb has precisely rendered features with deep set eyes, perhaps once with inlay, and a large broad nose. An encircling groove around the front of the head suggests that the face is masked like that of a shaman performing a ritual. The tattoos to back and front of the torso may represent scarification or clothing. The figure is also shown wearing a necklace.

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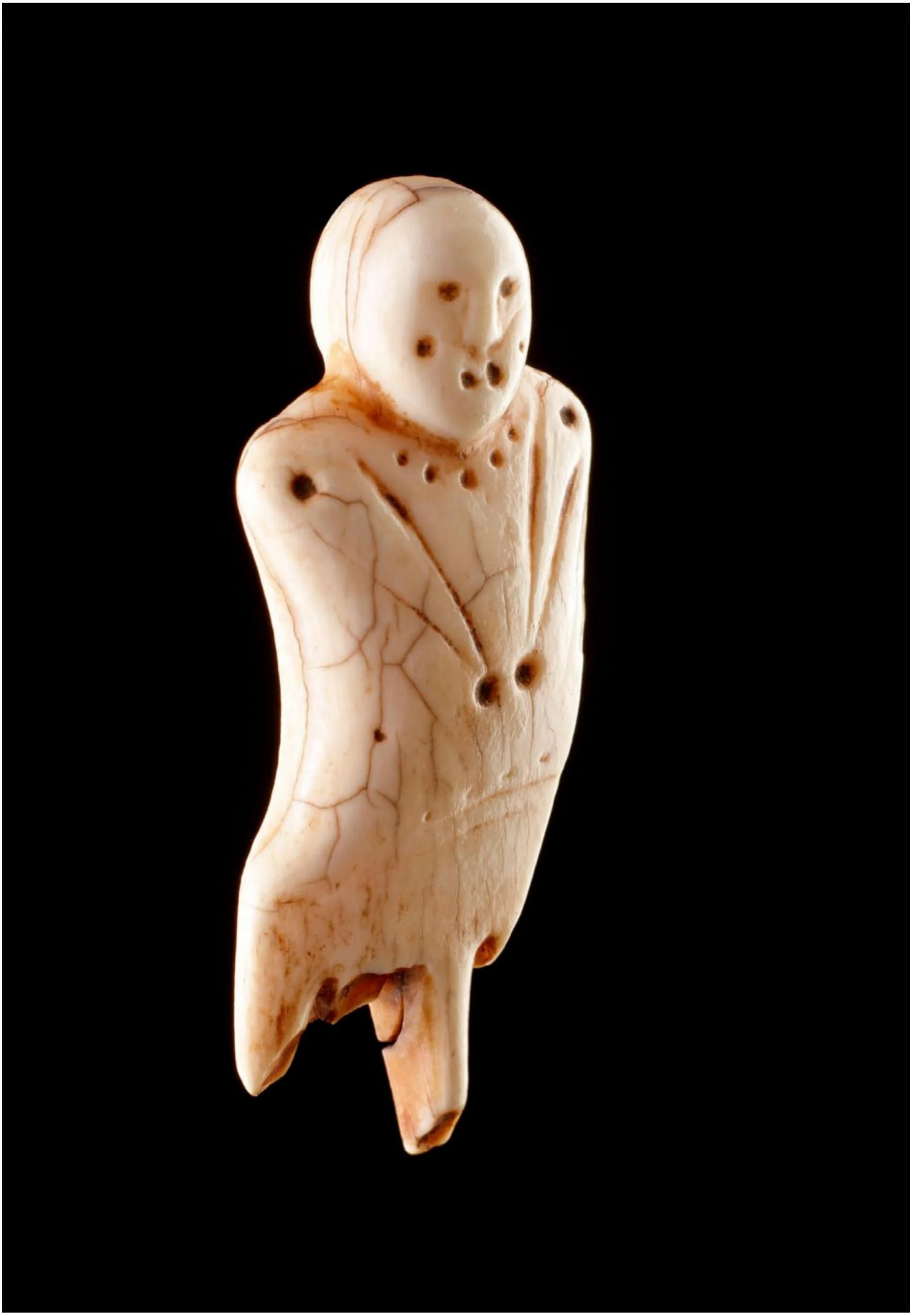

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02

LEGA SPOON

Wooden ritual spoon in the form of a half-figure
Lega
D.R. of Congo
First half 20th century
Length: 15,5 cm
Provenance:
Martien Coppens (1908 – 1986)
Private collection Louis Nierijnck
Publication:
“Negro Sculpture, a photographic approach” (1975)
Price on request

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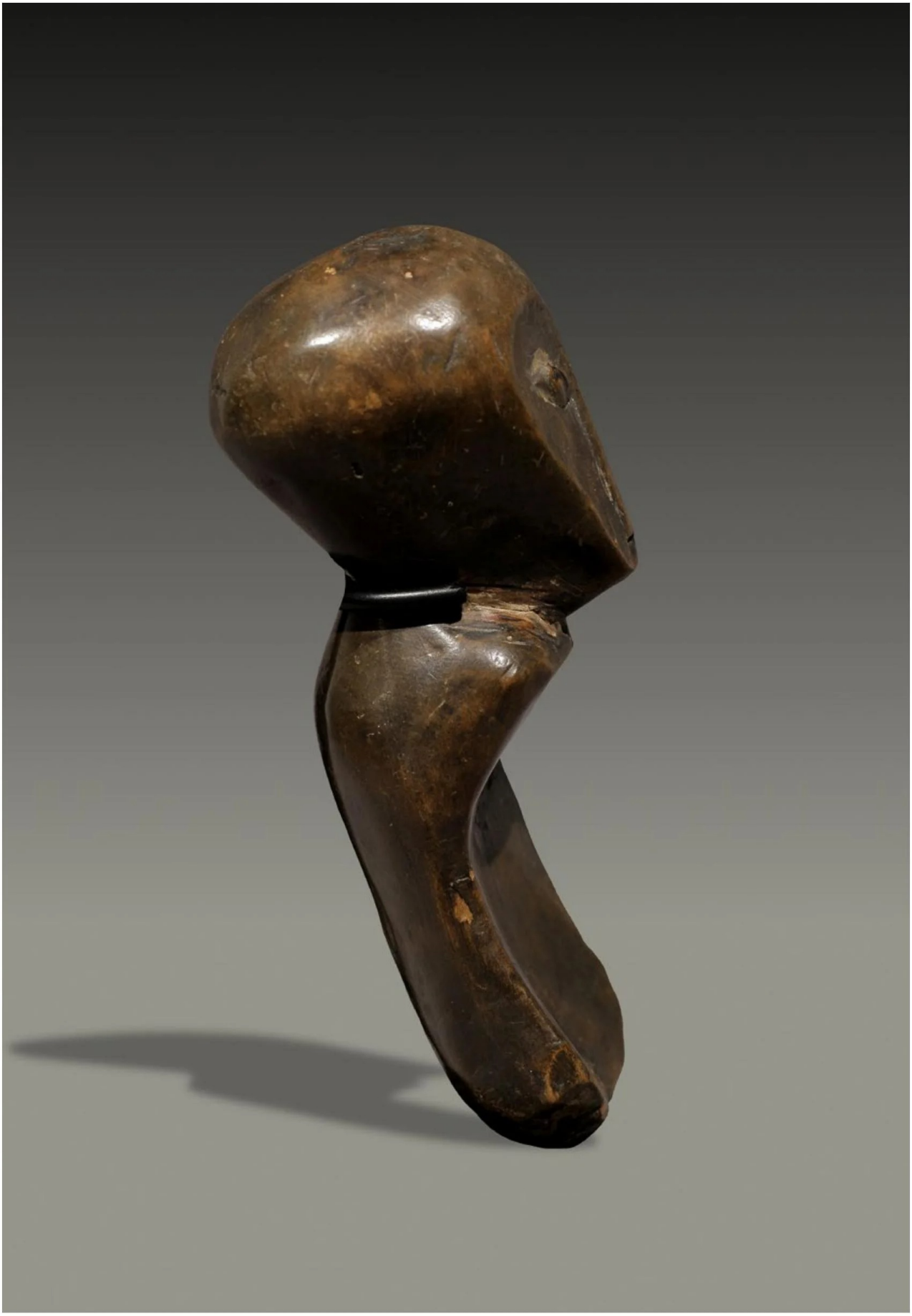

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03

YELA FIGURE

Hardwood figure
Yela
D.R. of Congo
First half 20th century
Height: 22 cm
Provenance:
Martien Coppens (1908 – 1986)
Private collection Louis Nierijnck
Publication:
"Negro Sculpture, a photographic approach" (1975)
Price on request

A sculpture sugesting the immobility of a corpse. Like the Mbole the Yela, too, have a Lilwa society. Sculptures representing 'hanged ones' are used by its members as warnings.

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04

IBIBIO-EKET MARIONETTE FIGURE

Figure
Ibibio-Eket
Nigeria
First half of the 20th century
Wood with black, sooty, rough patina
Height: 36 cm
Provenance:
Du Perrier, Paris 1976
Azar collection, 1979
Private collection, Hamburg
Auctions: Lombrail-Teucquam, Paris 2002 and Native, 2016
Publication:
L'Art Eket, Collection Azar, 1979, François Neyt
Price: 4.300 euros

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05

IGBO MASK

Agbogho Mmwo
Igbo (Ibo)
Nigeria
First half of 20th century
Wood, pigment, paint
Size: 46 cm
Provenance:
Acquired in situ in 1958 by Lore Kegel
Boris Kegel-Konietzko
Publication:
Hans Himmelheber, *Negerkunst und Negerkünstler*, 1960
Collection no.: I-2
Market debut: 2025
Price: 4.500 euros

A richly ornamented Igbo mask with refined decoration. Face and coiffure are densely covered with patterns; the elaborate, imaginary hairstyle is carved to rise high above the head – adorned with typical Ibo motifs. The nose is pointed, the lips narrow and carefully shaped, and the teeth finely carved with great precision.

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06

PENDE PENDANT

A fine Ikoko pendant, rare depiction
Pende
D.R. of Congo
Early 20th century
Light Ivory with dark deposits in the recesses
Height: 4,8 cm
CITES available
Provenance:
Acquired in DRC by Boris Kegel-Konietzko, 1956
Price: 1.500 euros

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07

IATMUL MASK

Mei/Mwei mask
Iatmul
Central Region of Sepik River, P. N.G.
Early 20th century
Wood, pigments and cowries
Height: 85,5 cm
Provenance:
Family Reiss collection, New York
Manny Silverman Gallery, Los Angeles
Michael Sorafine (1950-2021), Los Angeles
By descendance
Price: 10.000 euros

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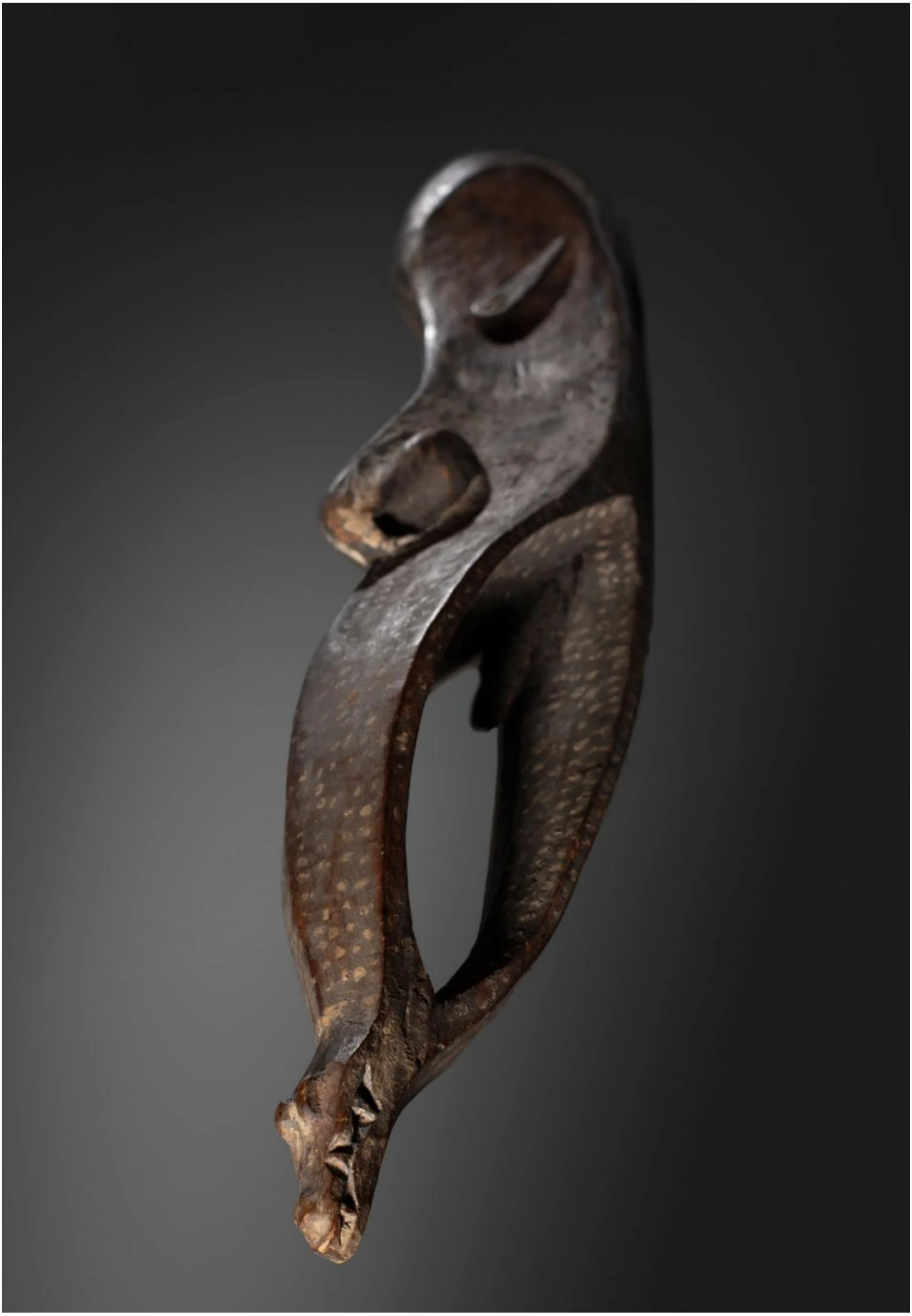

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08

BAMANA MASK

Suruku mask
Bamana
Mali
Early 20th century
Wood
Height: 45 cm
Provenance:
Private collection, France (acquired in 1985 from Madame Callier, Condom, Francia.)
Price: 4.200 euros

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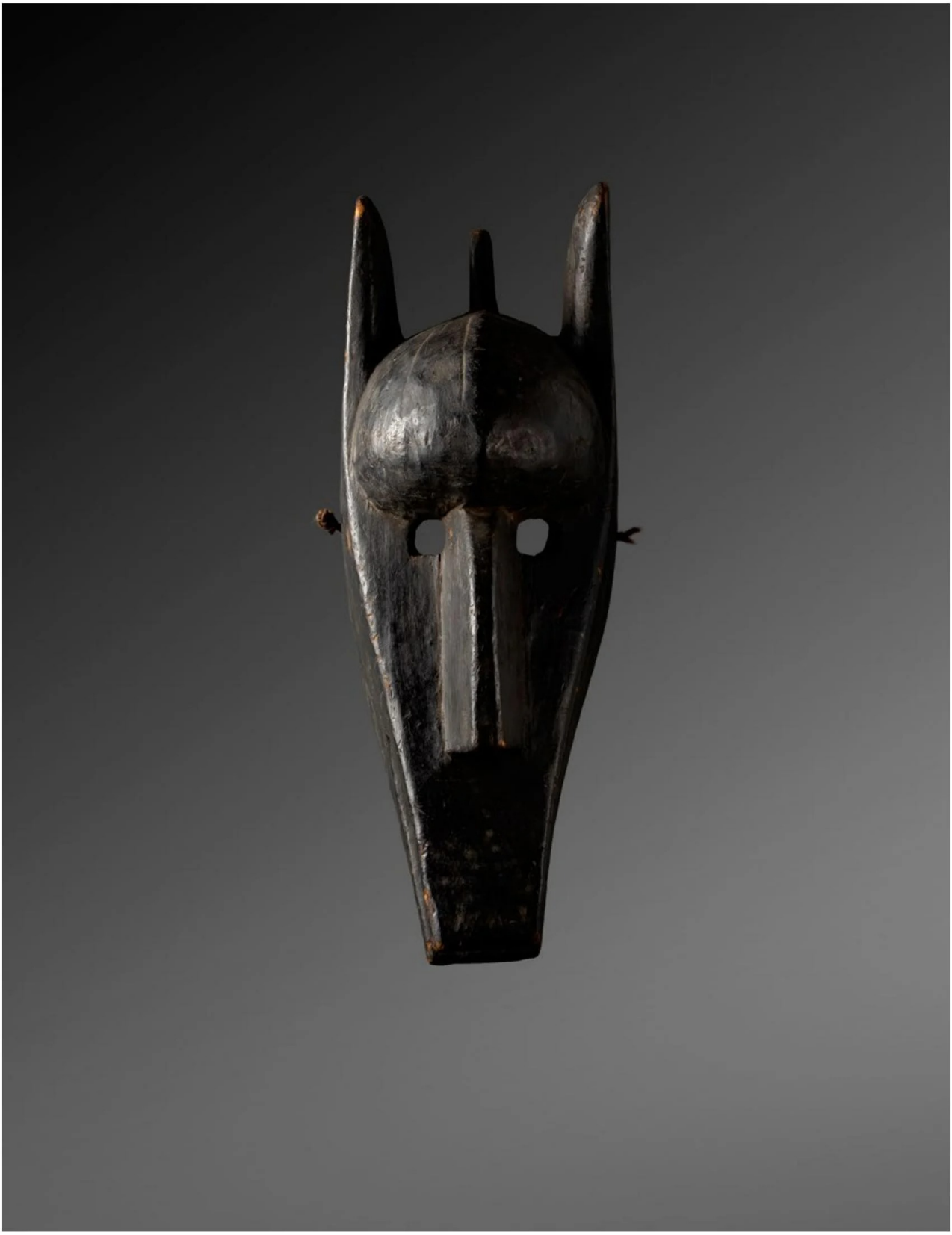

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09

TOMA MASK

Mask *Nyenne*
Toma
M'zerekore Region, Guinea/Liberia
Early 20th century
Wood, gourd, leather and iron
Height: 81 cm
Provenance:
Isidore and Nancy Marder, Philadelphia (acquired between 1970-1980)
Price: 4.500 euros

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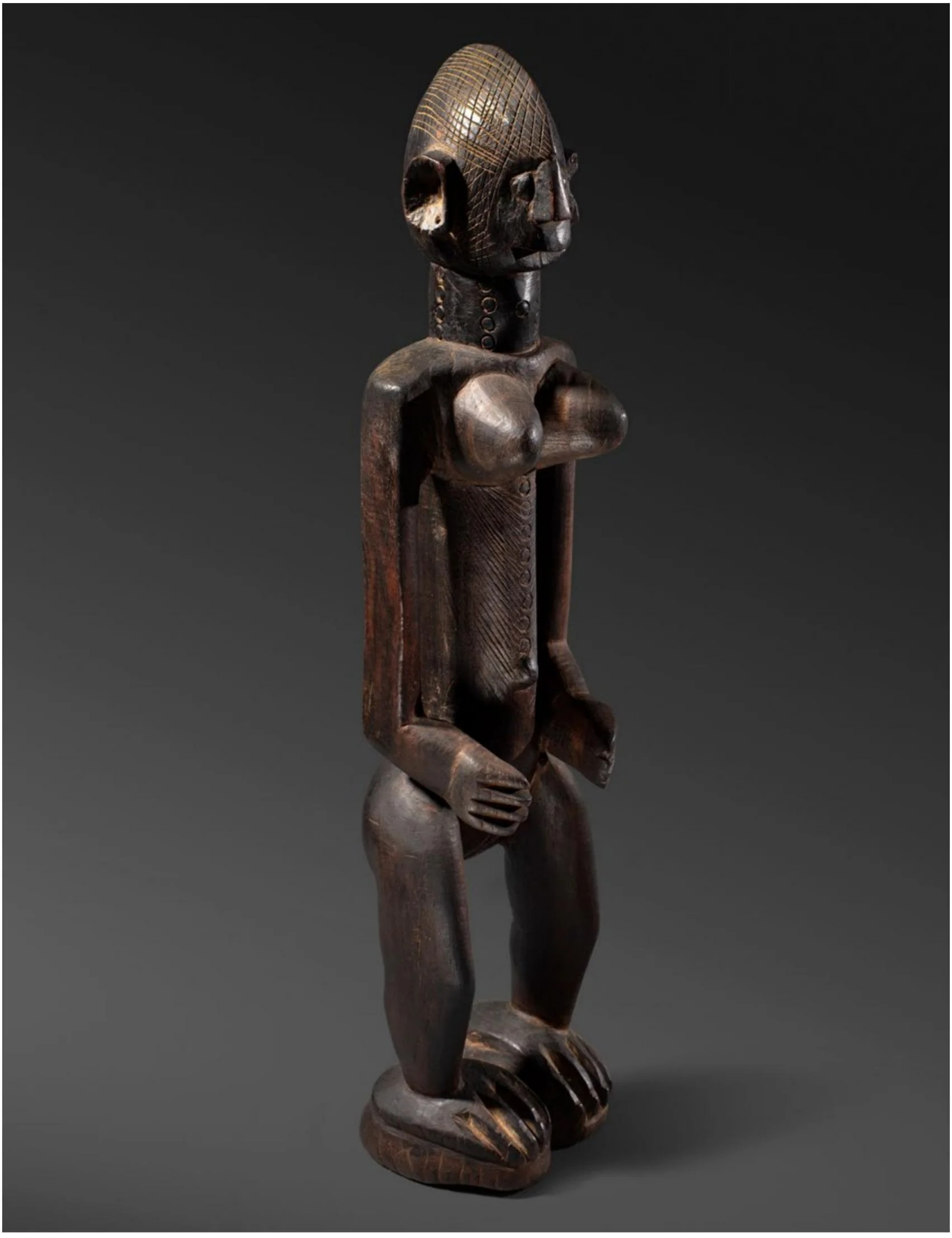

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10

BAMBARA STATUE

Statue
Bambara
Mali
Late 19th century
Wood
Height: 56 cm
Provenance:
Private collection, England
Price: 3.500 euros

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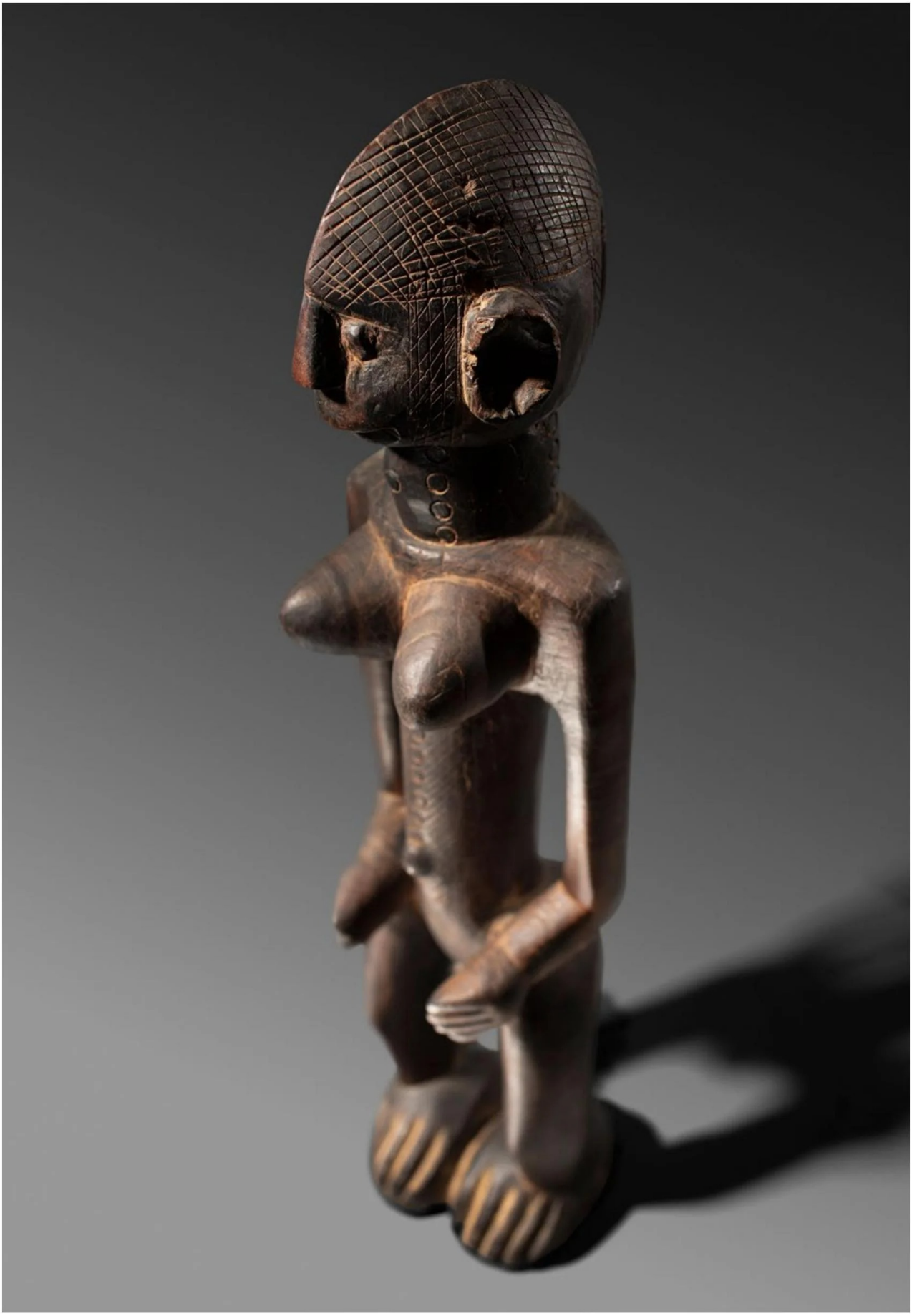

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11

DOGON STATUE

Niongom statue
Dogon
Mali
16th century or earlier
Wood
55 cm
Provenance:
Private collection, United States
Price: 4.500 euros

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12

DOGON FIGURE

Figure
Dogon
Mali
Wood
Height: 20 cm
Provenance:
Olivier Castellano, Paris
Price: 2.800 euros

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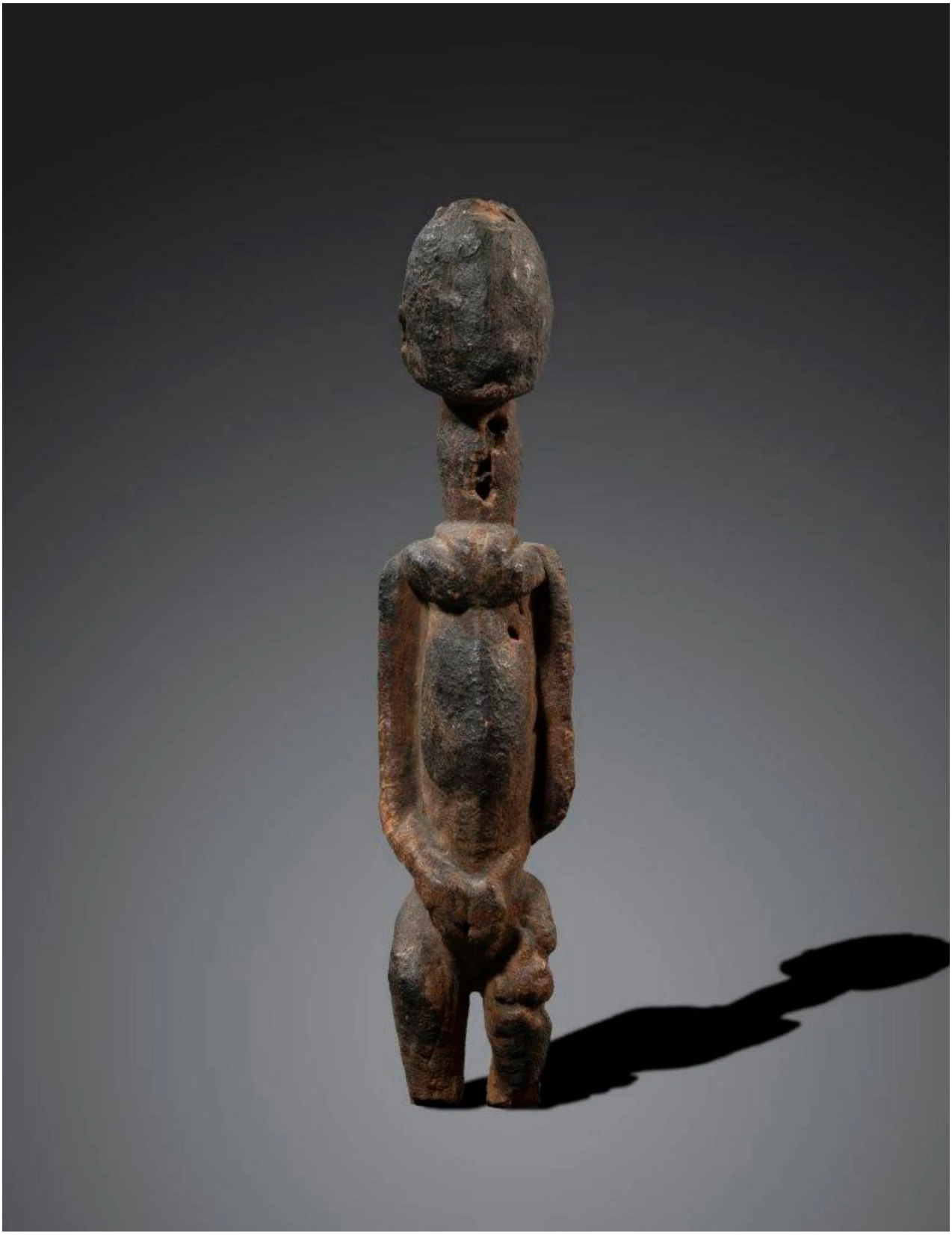

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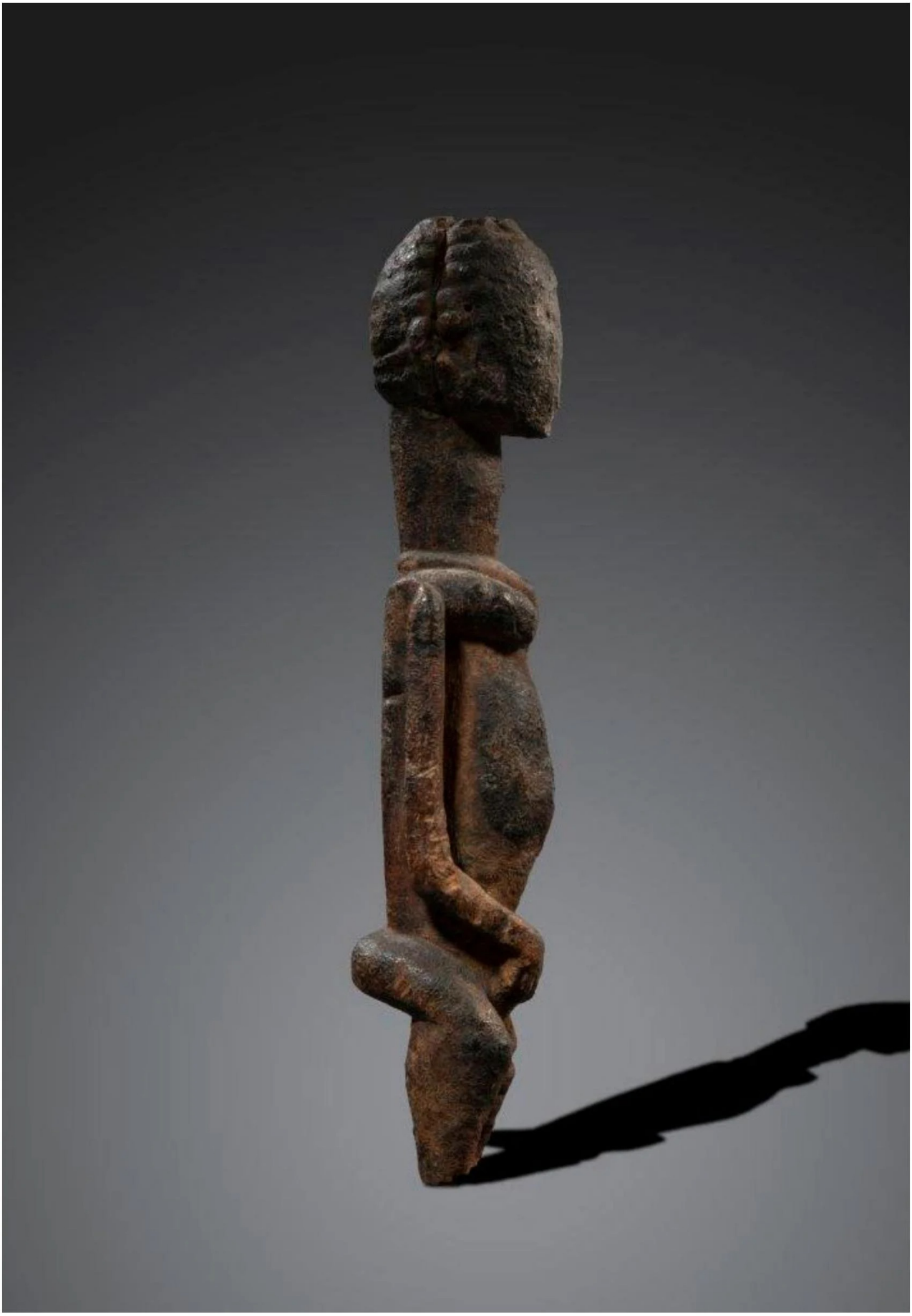

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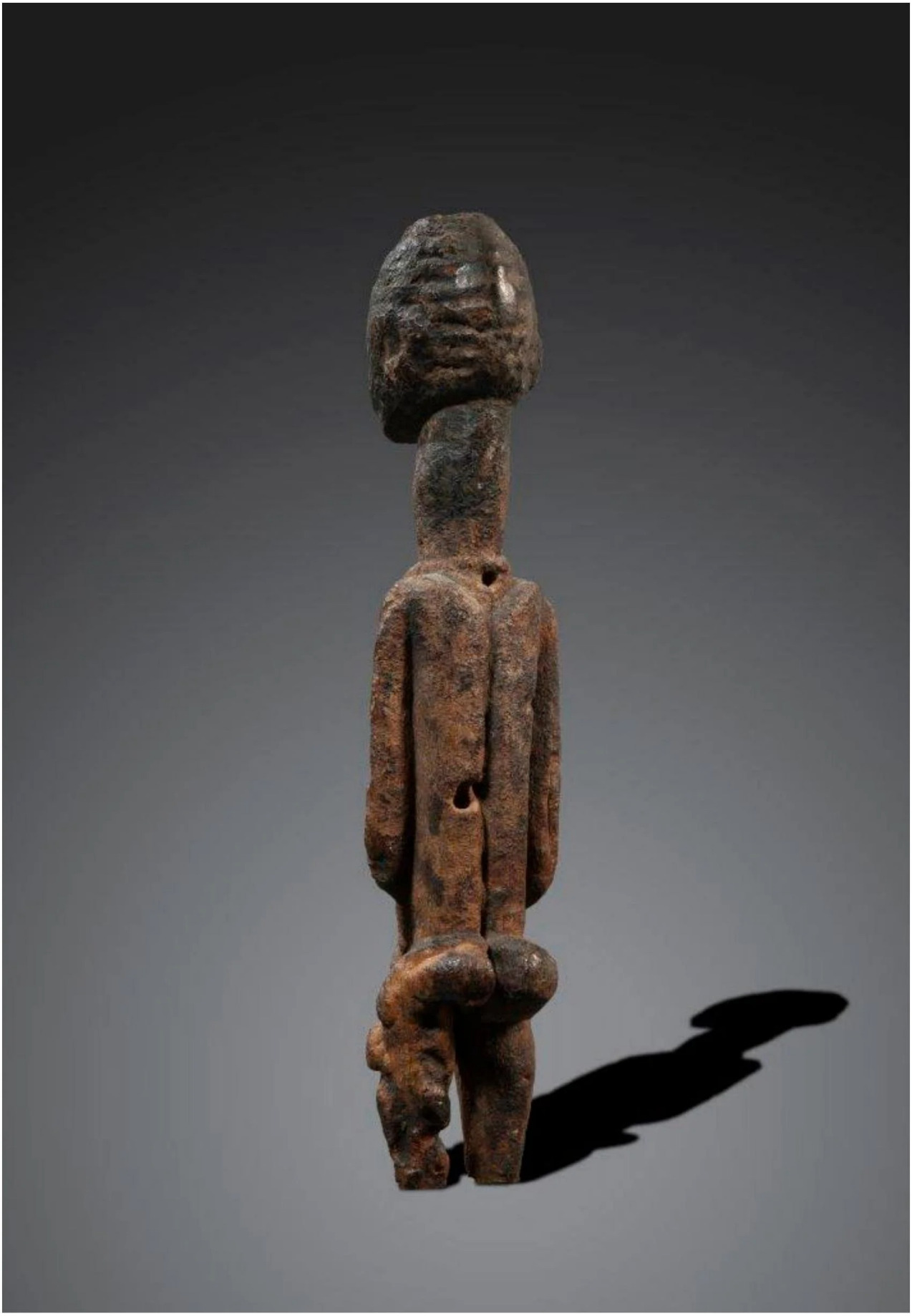

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13

KUMU MASK

Mask
Kumu
D.R. of Congo
Wood
Height: 27 cm
Provenance:
French private collection
TAS special price: 2.000 euros

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14

MAMBILA HELMET

Helmet
Mambila
Cameroon
Wood
Length: 34 cm
Provenance:
French private collection
TAS especial price: 2.000 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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15

BAHINEMO MASK

Garra mask
Bahinemo
Hunstein Mountains, East Sepik Province, P.N.G.
Late 19th or early 20th century (C-14 dating)
Carved wood
Height: 67,5 cm
Provenance:
Field-collected by Bruce Lawes (1926-2011)
Professor McCue, Stanford University
Alex Arthur, Brussels
Marc Assayag, Montreal
John Dubrow, New York
Price on request

"In the region of the Hunstein Mountains, upriver on the Sepik River and west of the Korewori, *garra (or Gra)* hooks depict powerful spirits. They were used during initiations by the Bahinemo populations.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York notes that in the region, mask-like forms were associated, broadly, with forest spirits, while the slender profile images were connected with water spirits, their curving hooks identified, in some cases, as catfish whiskers. Like the hook figures (yipwon) of the Yimam people, Bahinemo hook images formerly served as hunting helpers, their supernatural powers assisting in the capture of game. They also played a role in male initiation ceremonies, in which they were carried by initiated men during dances.

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16

DOGON TOGUNA POST

Togu na architectural element (support post)
Dogon
Anakila Village, Plain region, Mali
19th century
Carved wood
Height: 212 cm
Provenance:
Merton Simpson, New York (inv. #5795)
Guilhem Montagut, Barcelona
Publication (with images of the post *in situ* in Mali):
Togu Na, The African Dogon House of Men – House of Words, Tito & Sandro Spini, Milan, Ed. Rizzoli, 1976, pp. 112-113
Yale University GvR Archive 0000478
Price on request

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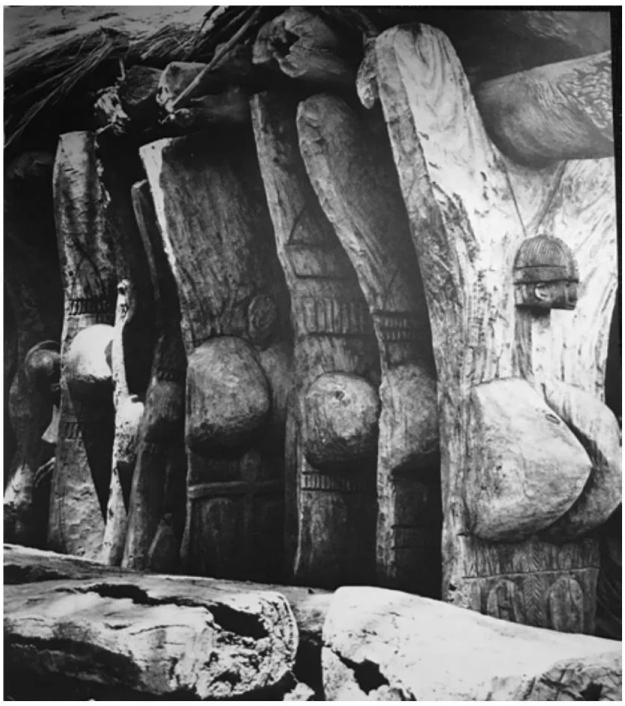
In Dogon language, *togu na* means « shelter of Men ». As stated by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, « forked sculptural elements support the roof beams of *togu na*, open-sided shelters where Dogon men meet to rest, converse, and discuss issues of importance to the community. The low roofs, made of thick stacks of millet stalks, keep the interior dark and cool and force the men to sit, encouraging calm, peaceful discourse. »
This spectacular sculpture, over two meters high, depicts a founding ancestor and is decorated with symbols related to fertility and the perpetuation of the clan.



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17

KACHINA DOLL

Angak'Tsina – Long-Hair Katsina doll
Hopi
Arizona, USA
Circa 1930s-40s
Carved wood (cottonwood), feathers and pigments
Height: 24,5 cm
Provenance:
Skinner Boston, American Indian Art, 2 Dec. 2017, lot 325
Private collection, USA
TAS exclusive price: 3.500 euros

Katsina (or Kachina) dolls represent spirits or gods from the pantheon of the Pueblo peoples in the American Southwest. Given to children, Katsina dolls constituted a pedagogical tool allowing them to familiarize themselves with the spiritual world and perpetuating knowledge of the founding myths on which their society was based.

As Barton Wright notes in *Kachina Spirit* (2003), Angak'tsina, the Long Hair Katsina is one of the most widely distributed Katsinam. It can be found at Zuni, Laguna, Acoma, Santa Ana, San Felipe, and Jemez pueblos. When this Katsina comes, he brings a soft gentle rain that is good for the crops. His melodious song is an invocation for the end of the dry season, and his loose hair is perceived as representing falling rain.

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18

FOLK HEAD

Head
French folk art
End of 19th century
Wood and paintings
Height: 9,5 cm
Price: 850 euros

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19

KACHINA FIGURE

« Kowako katsina » figure
Hopi
Arizona, USA
End of 19th to start of 20th century
Cotton wood, pigments and feathers
Height: 23 cm
Provenance:
Maurice Nicaud, Paris
Price: 6.500 euros

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20

PERUVIAN BAG

Elongated Bag of Many Colors
Sihuas, Peru
543 BC-AD 121 (First phase)
Camelid fibers; simple looping
22 cm x 50 cm
Provenance:
Private collection
Provenance available to buyer
Price on request

Elongated bag in simple looping with interlocking color change, strap in plain weave, all in camelid fibers. Design is bands of superimposed, multicolored ascending and descending steps, and with a mirror image. Beautiful colors and graphic design. Documentation: https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1391&context=tsaconf

View more at tmurrayarts.com

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21

PERUVIAN LEAF BAG

Ch'uspa Coca Leaf Bag
Alto Peru (Peru or Bolivia), South America
Colonial Period, 17th-18th century
Alpaca; tapestry weave
17 cm x 38 cm
Price on request

A very appealing open coca leaf pouch, ch'uspa, featuring charming birds in deep colors, this weaving captures an early Incan-Spanish interface dating to the 17th century.

It is a flat textile, never sewn into the bag it was intended to be. A related ch'uspa (but not as fine) in the Walters Museum offers an in-depth explanatory caption.

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22

PERUVIAN TEXTILES

An Important Fragment with Mythical Beasts
Recuay, Peru
200 BC - AD 600
Camild; complimentary warp, appliqué
46 cm x 51 cm
Provenance:
Private collection
Provenance available to the buyer
Price on Request

Textiles from the Recuay Culture are very rare; The mythical beast motifs are creatures that likely descend from earlier Chavin prototypes, based on tales of dangerous animals of the far Amazon River.

View more at tmurrayarts.com

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23

PERUVIAN VESSEL

Vessel with Alpaca Head
Moche, Peru
1st to 6th century
Ceramic, slip pigment
8 cm x 14 cm x 15 cm
Provenance:
Provenance available to buyer
Price on request

Charming pot from an old San Francisco Collection. Note repair to the right ear.

View more at tmurrayarts.com

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24

SUMBA COMB

A Sumba turtleshell wedding headdress comb
Sumba, Indonesia
19th century
A massive hand-carved woman's wedding headdress made from the shell of a seaturtle with filigree cappings at the end of the headband.
27,5 cm (h.) x 24,5 cm (W.) x 24 cm (D.)
Price on request

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25

AUSTRALIAN BASKET

Port Darwin, Northern Territory,
Australia
19th century
Price on request

This basket probably dates from the 19th century and as such it is astonishing that it has survived in such remarkable condition.

For a similar example with a collection date of 1877, see "Collected" Susan. M. Davis. page 27. Plate 21.

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26

AUSTRALIAN SHIELD

A large old shield
Western desert, Australia
19th century
Length: 78 cm
Provenance:
Private U.K collection
Price on request

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27

AUSTRALIAN SPEAR THROWER

A very fine and profusely decorated
spear thrower
Victoria, Australia
19th century
Length: 70 cm
Price on request

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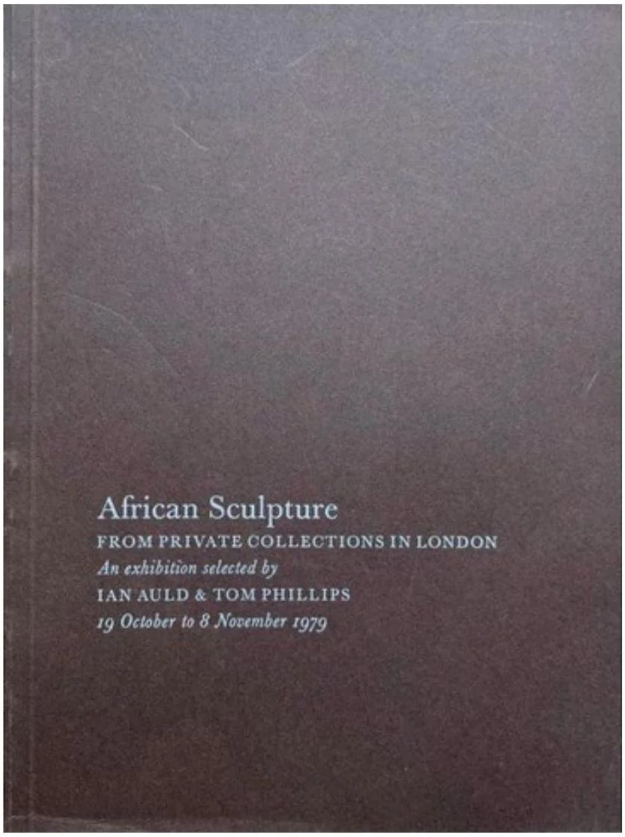
28

BAMANA PULLEY

Heddle pulley
Soloni Bamana / Bozo
Mali
Wood, corozo nut, metal
Height: 18,5 cm
Provenance:
Tom Phillips (1937-2022), London
Publication:
""African Sculpture from private collections in London"", An exhibition selected by Ian Auld & Tom Phillips, London: South London Art Gallery, 1979:4, #8
Price on request


African Sculpture
FROM PRIVATE COLLECTIONS IN LONDON
An exhibition selected by
IAN AULD & TOM PHILLIPS
19 October to 8 November 1979

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